

Andree Greenberg - Rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic

From: Stephen Knight <sknight@savesfbay.org>
To: Stephen Knight <sknight@savesfbay.org>
Date: 5/4/2011 4:46 PM
Subject: Rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic

Just a few weeks after the City of Redwood City received "a mountain of concerns about Saltworks," with close to 1000 pages of specific detailed objections and comments, Cargill/DMB have already determined how they intend to press ahead with their massively controversial plan to build housing in a restorable sea level salt pond. So much for "respect the process."

What are they offering Redwood City and the region? A little "dash" of change (see below), including a high school they may not pay for and treated groundwater to drink, instead of Central Valley water. Yet, "Building anything of this scale on this site is so out of bounds, so out of step with the last 50 years of the bay's history, that the conversation shouldn't even need to go past that," said Davis Lewis, executive director of Save the Bay.

The *Wall Street Journal* fails to report that once Bayfront open space becomes available for purchase, and an honest appraisal value established, numerous public and private funding sources may be available. Resource protection agencies and conservancies have acquired many thousands of acres around the Bay. Cargill's decade-old "asking price" assumed the site could be developed, against the existing zoning, and was found by a court to have been illegally inflated; the appraiser lost his license and was fined. And the Environmental Protection Agency has said that it was aware of third parties interested in purchasing the Redwood City salt ponds.

In short, Cargill/DMB appears to be rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic.

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Dash of Change Coming to Salt-Site Plan

By VAUHINI VARA

Wall Street Journal 5/5/11

REDWOOD CITY—The company behind a massive housing development proposed here along San Francisco Bay plans to adjust its pitch in coming months, partly in response to concerns raised by local groups.

The land at stake, owned by Cargill Inc., has been used for the past century to produce salt. The company and developer DMB Associates Inc. now want to transform half of the 1,400-acre salt works into a 12,000-unit housing development, with schools and offices, while restoring half of the land as tidal marsh, recreational areas and other open space.

The project, which would boost Redwood City's population an estimated 30% from about 76,000 now, has drawn opposition from environmental groups and some officials in the region concerned about the scope and environmental impact of the project.

"Building anything of this scale on this site is so out of bounds, so out of step with the last 50 years of the bay's history, that the conversation shouldn't even need to go past that," said Davis Lewis, executive director of Save the Bay.

In an early step in the long road to final approval for the project, Redwood City recently ended a five-month comment period on the scope of an environmental-impact study of the proposal.

Now, DMB is preparing to update the plan, initially released in May 2009, to address some of the thoughts residents and groups offered during the comment period and in private conversations.

"There are a number of suggestions that we actually think are very thoughtful and that we'll integrate into the proposal," said Eneas Kane, chief executive of DMB, a Scottsdale, Ariz., company that has developed large communities in Arizona and elsewhere in California.

A big complaint about the initial proposal was its plan to import water to the development from the Central Valley, because Redwood City doesn't have enough water for all the new residents. Organizations such as Save the Bay protested that would further deplete water from the already parched Central Valley.

Now, DMB plans to look again at other options, including desalinized water and groundwater sucked from nearby, though the company says it still believes the Central Valley plan works best and would use surplus water, according to David Smith, a senior vice president at DMB.

Other modifications, which DMB says it plans to submit to Redwood City as early as this summer, include changing the configuration of some of the land to help ease persistent flooding.

The revised plan also would add a high school to go with four elementary schools and one middle school, after the school district worried it wouldn't have space to accommodate an influx of children. School district officials didn't immediately return phone calls requesting comment. The developer may share in some of the costs associated with the schools, DMB's Mr. Smith said.

The proposal is still far from reality. Assuming DMB and Cargill clear the numerous regulatory, legal and public-opinion hurdles, it could be three decades before the development is finished, said Blake Lyon, the senior planner managing the approval process in Redwood City's planning department. Mr. Smith said some residents could move in within years of the project getting clearance from all the appropriate groups. The city has remained neutral on the project.

Meanwhile, local groups including Save the Bay say they will likely continue to oppose the plan no matter how the details change. Save the Bay says Cargill should sell the land to the government so all of it can be restored, said Mr. Lewis, executive director of the group.

Mr. Kane countered that the federal government earlier declined to buy the property at Cargill's asking price and that DMB's restoration plans for half the site would likely be better than what the cash-strapped government could achieve.

Other opponents of the plan include regional branches of environmental groups such as the National Audubon Society along with the former mayors of neighboring towns including Palo Alto and Mountain View.

Cargill's push to turn its salt works into a housing development underscores the shift in the Bay Area economy over the past century. The region once was home to a robust salt industry because its sunny and windy climate is conducive to salt production. But because of shrinking regional demand and increased competition from salt-making rivals, executives decided to seek other ideas for the site in Redwood City. When the federal government declined to buy the land, Cargill executives decided to partner with DMB to develop it instead.

Andree Greenberg - Tiger Woods, Really?

From: "David Lewis, Save The Bay" <david.lewis@savesfbay.org>
To: Andree Greenberg <agreenberg@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 5/25/2011 9:33 AM
Subject: Tiger Woods, Really?



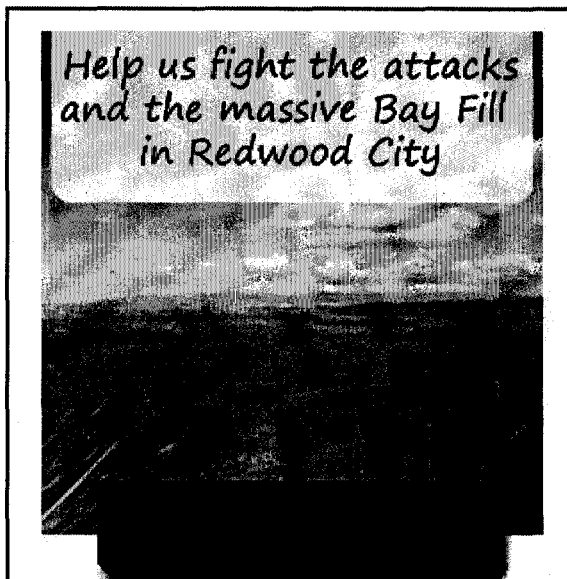
Dear Andree,

"David Lewis [of Save The Bay] has as much credibility about public opinion in Redwood City as Tiger Woods does talking about marital fidelity."

That's how a DMB Associates spokesman reacted to a recent poll showing the overwhelming majority of Redwood City voters oppose the largest development in the Bay in decades. He attacked me in the local newspaper.

Why attack the messenger?

Because the more people learn, the less they like this development. They don't want Cargill and DMB to build 12,000 housing units on restorable Bay salt ponds in Redwood City, even after being bombarded by the developer with five years of advertising. **Help us fight back!**



Save The Bay is leading local residents and the whole Bay Area to fight this development, and we've been very effective. But there is still work to be done.

These developers still don't get it. They think they can intimidate defenders of the San Francisco Bay by attacking us. They think they can buy approval for their project -- but you can prove them wrong.

Please help us fight back! If there was ever a time to become a member of Save The Bay, it's now!

Show Cargill/DMB that deep pockets, slick PR campaigns, and personal attacks won't work. The people of the San Francisco Bay Area understand a healthy Bay is crucial to our quality of life and economy. Help us overcome Cargill/DMB's attacks and continue to protect San Francisco Bay from pollution, filling and inappropriate development, and restore these salt ponds back to thriving wetlands.

I hope you will consider supporting our efforts by joining Save The Bay with a membership gift of as little as \$25 today.

Our Don't Pave My Bay campaign has won the support of thousands of Bay Area residents, elected officials, and other environmental organizations who oppose Cargill's Bay fill plan that sacrifices the Bay's health for private benefit.

Cargill and DMB are targeting Save The Bay with full page attack ads in local newspapers, day after day. We can't fight these corporate giants alone. That is why I hope you will continue to stand with us.

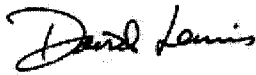
We need your support today to continue our efforts to protect and restore the Bay from pollution, fill and inappropriate development.

These salt ponds were formerly part of the Bay and have been recommended by scientists to be restored to tidal wetlands. We've shown the environmental and other impacts of developing this area. And we've mobilized a growing movement of concerned citizens against Cargill's plan.

But just because this project is disastrous, doesn't mean that it won't proceed. Cargill and DMB aren't retreating, they're pouring millions more dollars into their campaign to win project approval.

Please join with us. Your gift will not only bolster our efforts, but fund our other important work to enhance the beauty, health and quality of life in the Bay Area.

Thank you for your commitment,



David Lewis
Executive Director

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This e-mail was sent to agreenberg@waterboards.ca.gov by david.lewis@savesfbay.org.

Save the Bay, 350 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 900, Oakland, CA 94612

If you no longer wish to receive e-mail messages from david.lewis@savesfbay.org, please select the following link: [Remove](#).

NEWS

Saltworks plan splits labor groups

BY RYAN THOMAS RIDDLE

Daily Post Staff Writer

A Teamsters alliance of 70,000 members has decided to go toe-to-toe with those labor organizations that support the controversial construction project that would build up to 12,000 homes on the salt ponds east of Highway 101.

Teamsters Joint Council No. 7, which represents 22 locals and 70,000 members, fired off a letter on May 12 to union juggernaut San Mateo County Central Labor Council, which supports an environmental review of the Redwood City

project. The Teamsters group fears the homes could jeopardize the port industry.

While the council has only supported the environmental review, several building unions have given their flat-out support for the entire project.

Several seaport industries are parked right across from the proposed construction site and do a majority of their work at night with lights and lots of noise, said Matt Leddy, a biology teacher at the College of San Mateo. His union, American Federation of Teachers Lo-

cal 1493, has also opposed the project and is working with the Teamsters.

"There has been no shortage of statements from organizations representing these industries clearly illustrating the significant threat posed by Cargill's proposal to put 12,000 high-end housing units literally across the street from our jobs," said the letter to the council's Executive Secretary Treasurer Shelley Kessler, who couldn't be reached for comment.

Leddy said the Teamsters also worry the project will result in the loss of the

more than 600 jobs at the port.

Both the Teamsters and the teachers union are also concerned about traffic.

"Our concerns are not just about putting 12,000 homes and multiple elementary schools right next to our industrial work sites, but about clogging the key roadways we use to move materials, and restricting the ability of our industries to operate," said the Teamsters' letter.

The Post's call to a spokesman for DMB Saltworks, which oversees the project, wasn't returned yesterday.

Andree Greenberg - Saltworks Item on Monday's agenda

From: MGR-Malcolm Smith <malcolm.smith@REDWOODCITY.ORG>
To: <MGR-SALTWORKS-EXTERNAL@LISTSERV.REDWOODCITY.ORG>
Date: 5/19/2011 9:26 PM
Subject: Saltworks Item on Monday's agenda

Good evening –

You'll be interested to know that on the agenda for the City Council of Redwood City's Monday, May 23rd meeting will be items related to the proposed Saltworks project. They will include;

- Receive an informational briefing on the proposed Saltworks Project development review process, no action required.
- Consider approval of an Amended and Restated Reimbursement and Processing Agreement By and Between the City of Redwood City and DMB Redwood City Saltworks LLC, which relates to the environmental review and planning process for the proposed Saltworks Project, subject to minor revisions approved by the City Attorney.
- Consider approval of amendments to professional services agreements for the purpose of continuing the review and processing of applications for the Saltworks development process and the related environmental review for the fiscal year July 2011 to June 2012.

Please visit www.redwoodcity.org/government/council/meetings.html to view the staff report. Visit www.redwoodcity.org/Saltworks to see other important information about the proposed Saltworks project.

The processing of the development application and the City's provision of project information to the community do not indicate a position for or against the proposed project, nor should they be construed as an indication that the project will be approved. The information provided by the City is offered as a service to the community so that there is a greater awareness and understanding of the process and the decisions that must be made regarding this proposal, and so that the community may be more fully engaged as the process proceeds.

~ malcolm

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 City of Redwood City, California

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Date: Wednesday, May 04, 2011 4:46 PM
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<http://www.mercurynews.com/peninsula/ci_17906628> with close to 1000 pages of specific detailed objections and comments

<<http://redwoodcity.patch.com/articles/a-wide-range-of-organizations-and-individuals-oppose-the-cargill-development-proposal>> , Cargill/DMB have already determined how they intend to press ahead with their massively controversial plan to build housing in a restorable sea level salt pond. So much for "respect the process."

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<<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704569404576299380762758972.html>>

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